

plan ahead, whether for an evening off or for a vacation, because some event or emergency always demands that Congress stay in session longer than planned.

All the political posturing, sniping and scrambles to claim credit for good things—or avoid blame for bad—sometimes becomes disheartening, as does the constant maneuvering for partisan advantage. And for putting up with all of this, you get paid less than you could make in the private sector, while facing harsh and frequent criticism.

Yet despite it all, most members run for reelection and remain in Congress as long as they can. Most of you worked long and hard to become a committee staff director.

Is it all worthwhile? Yes, of course it is.

Why? Let's be frank—some of it satisfies the ego. Some like the power and the trappings of power—when you speak, people listen, and that is very satisfying. But most of you, I think, are truly motivated by the belief that, as hard as it is, you can make a difference and enhance the lives of ordinary Americans.

Then, too, it is all pretty exciting—and interesting. The sheer challenge of public policy issues attracts us. There is a pervasive sense on Capitol Hill that it is where the issues of greatest importance to the nation are being sorted out. This is where the action is. Sometimes this is misplaced, but often it is not.

You struggle over the issues that aroused the passions of this country's founding generation. How much power should the federal government be given? How should powers be separated among the branches? How do we resolve the tension between encouraging individual liberty and security? What role should our country play in the world?

These great issues are subject to debate every time a new federal budget comes to a vote, or a major presidential initiative gets introduced on Capitol Hill. When you start working in Congress, you get a chance to take part in this ongoing debate—our great experiment with democracy.

Your public service gives you a stimulating, proud and lively career.

CONCLUSION

So I salute each of you for the vital role that you play within this institution, and in your service to your fellow Americans.

You are contributing to the success and direction of this country. I hope you feel that by working in the Congress you are given the unique opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people and the great affairs of this Nation.

I would wager that no matter where your career takes you from Capitol Hill, that you will look back on your public service as the most rewarding of your career.

The work is hard, the recognition rare, the monetary reward modest. But your reward is a deeply fulfilling life in public service and a key role in American democracy. What more could you want?

TEXTILE SHORT SUPPLY PROCEDURES

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD and the benefit of my colleagues, a letter from Mr. David M. Spooner, Textile Negotiator for the United States Trade Representative, to Senator CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, Chairman of the Com-

mittee on Finance, clarifying the textile commercial availability provisions in the Singapore and Chile Free Trade Agreements.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, WASHINGTON, DC, JULY 25, 2003.

Hon. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GRASSLEY: I understand that the Committee has received inquiries regarding the textile commercial availability provisions in the Singapore and Chile Free Trade Agreements and am therefore writing to clarify the agreements' commercial availability sections.

The Singapore FTA would deem as not commercially available all products designated as such prior to November 2002 (prior to the completion of the SFTA negotiations) for the AGOA and CBTPA preference programs. The Chile FTA does not contain such a provision. In the future, for both the Singapore and Chile FTAs, to designate additional items as not commercially available, either the United States or our trading partners would have to utilize the consultation provisions of the agreement's "Revision of Rules of Origin" section. This section requires the Parties to consult, upon request, to consider whether particular goods should be subject to different rules of origin to address issues of availability of supply of fibers, yarns or fabrics in the free trade area and requires the Parties to endeavor to conclude their consultations within 60 days of the request.

I hope the above explanation is helpful. Please feel free to have Committee staff contact my office at 202-395-3026 if the Committee has any comments or questions.

Sincerely,

DAVID M. SPOONER,
Textile Negotiator.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF TRAYNOR HALFTOWN—BROADCAST PIONEER OF PHILADELPHIA

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the legendary Chief Traynor Halftown, the children's entertainer who passed away on July 5, 2003. His passing was broadly covered in the media and accepted as a personal loss for millions in the Philadelphia region who felt they knew him as a friend.

Chief Halftown was a true original and an entertainer at heart. Chief Halftown delighted the children of Delaware Valley for 49 years with his stories, cartoons and live talent acts. He offered a different view of Native Americans than was seen in most TV westerns. The Chief Halftown Show was one of Philadelphia's most popular programs. It was the longest running children's TV show in history, from 1951 to 1999—48 years on WFIL-TV Channel 6—Philadelphia. He had a live audience with selected children visiting his set each week. Some little known facts about the "Chief" include the fact that he had a fabulous voice. Prior to his children's TV career, he was a successful nightclub singer and had a much in demand lounge act. He was also quite a sportsman, including the fact that he was an "Ace" bowler.

Beginning from the early 1950's, Chief Halftown was an outstanding presence at community activities, business openings, sports events and holiday parades in countless towns. His scheduled appearances filled the calendar and drew adoring crowds at personal appearances until just recently.

A veteran of World War II, he served his country honorably and after discharge from the Army moved into Springfield, PA with his wife, Margaret. Unable to have children, this remarkable couple opened their home to three children from reservation families who then attended Delaware County, PA schools. Two boys and one girl, all now enjoy success in business and have families of their own.

Because of early exposure to substance abuse on his Seneca reservation, upper New York State, and due to a short period of personal dependency, he became known as a "sponsor helper" for others having such problems. He aided thousands of Pennsylvanians through his example and guidance for nearly 60 years. His passing is a tragic loss to many professionals who dedicated their own lives to this specific health care field.

In his eighties, he continued to produce children's "amateur contests" and made visits to nursing homes and assisted living facilities. For those elder citizens he wrote and presented a series of programs on the culture of Native Americans. The visits became popular events for confined and ailing seniors.

Mr. Speaker, our region has lost not only a legend in the broadcast industry, but a dear friend. I wish Margaret Halftown, his widow, my heartfelt condolences and may she find comfort in knowing that the many children and adults the Chief impacted deeply value his dedication and generosity of spirit and the example of his life and work. Chief Traynor Halftown exemplified the spirit of service that has made this country great. It is proper to remember and honor a man of such worth and character with great respect for what he accomplished and stood for.

HONORING 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF EMPLOYEE BENEFITS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the past few decades have posed some difficult challenges for America's workers and some hard choices for those who seek to guarantee them a brighter future. I can think of no area that is simultaneously as broadly important and increasingly complex as pension and health benefit issues. As Congress struggles with the challenge of ensuring the health and pension benefit promises made to tens of millions of workers and retirees, I want to thank the Employee Benefits Research Institute for its considerable contribution to providing education and information to members of Congress and the Nation. As EBRI marks its 25th anniversary, I want to thank them for helping us understand the issues and say that we all look forward to their counsel in the future.

EBRI is one of the only organizations dedicated to gathering employee benefit information and presenting it to the public in a timely